

**AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS**

Claims 1-4 and 9-18 were pending at the time of the Action.

No claims are canceled in this Response.

No claims are amended in this Response.

Accordingly, claims 1-4 and 9-18 remain pending.

1. (Previously Presented) A method comprising:  
storing files across multiple computers in a distributed file system;  
making changes to certain files;  
collecting the changes that are made to the certain files stored in the  
distributed file system; and  
digitally signing the changes in batch.

2. (Original) A method as recited in claim 1, wherein the collecting  
comprises:  
computing a hash of data in each file that is affected by the changes; and  
grouping the hashes together in batch for signing.

3. (Original) A data structure, embodied on a computer-readable  
medium, produced by the method of claim 1.

4. (Original) One or more computer readable media comprising  
computer-executable instructions that, when executed, perform the method as  
recited in claim 1.

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2       5.     (Canceled)

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4       6.     (Canceled)

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6       7.     (Canceled)

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8       8.     (Canceled)

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10      9.     (Original) In a distributed file system that stores encrypted files  
11 across multiple computers, a method comprising:

12       modifying one or more of the encrypted files;

13       computing a hash value of each modified encrypted file;

14       collecting the hash values into a group;

15       computing a hash value of the group; and

16       digitally signing the hash value of the group of hash values.

17  
18      10.    (Original) A method as recited in claim 9, wherein the modified  
19 encrypted file includes a metadata stream containing a header and an indexing  
20 structure, the indexing structure including hashes of the files and a structure to  
21 access the hashes of the files, the computing a hash value of each modified  
22 encrypted file further comprising deriving a hash of the header and at least part of  
23 the structure.  
24  
25

11. (Original) A method as recited in claim 9, wherein the modified encrypted file includes a metadata stream containing a header, per user information, and an indexing tree, the indexing tree including hashes of the files, branch nodes to access the hashes, and a root node, the computing a hash value of each modified encrypted file further comprising hashing as a single composite the header, the per user information, and the root node.

12. (Original) A data structure, embodied on a computer-readable medium, produced by the method of claim 9.

13. (Original) One or more computer readable media comprising computer-executable instructions that, when executed, perform the method as recited in claim 9.

14. (Original) One or more computer readable media comprising computer-executable instructions that, when executed, direct a computing device to:

modify individual files stored in a serverless distributed file system;  
compute a hash value of each modified file;  
collect the hash values into a group; and  
digitally signing the group of hash values.

15. (Original) One or more computer readable media as recited in claim 14, wherein the modified file includes a metadata stream containing a header and an indexing structure, the indexing structure including hashes of the files and a

1 structure to access the hashes of the files, the media further comprising computer-  
2 executable instructions that, when executed, direct a computing device to derive a  
3 hash of the header and at least part of the structure.

4  
5 16. (Original) One or more computer readable media as recited in claim  
6 14, wherein the modified file includes a metadata stream containing a header, per  
7 user information, and an indexing tree, the indexing tree including hashes of the  
8 files, branch nodes to access the hashes, and a root node, the media further  
9 comprising computer-executable instructions that, when executed, direct a  
10 computing device to hash as a single composite the header, the per user  
11 information, and the root node.

12  
13 17. (Original) A data structure stored on a computer-readable medium  
14 comprising:

15 representations of modifications made to multiple files stored in a  
16 distributed file system; and

17 a digital signature covering at least part of the representations to indicate  
18 that the modifications were made by a user with the signature.

19  
20 18. (Original) A data structure as recited in claim 17, wherein the  
21 representations comprise hashes of data in each file that is affected by the  
22 modifications.